



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
ETHICS COMMITTEE OF THE KENTUCKY JUDICIARY
Room 200, State Capitol
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601

ANTHONY M. WILCOIT
Court of Appeals

THOMAS J. KNOP
District Court

JOSEPH H. ECKERT
Circuit Court

B. M. WESTBERRY, CHAIRMAN
Attorney

UHEL O. BARRICKMAN
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Judicial Ethics Opinion

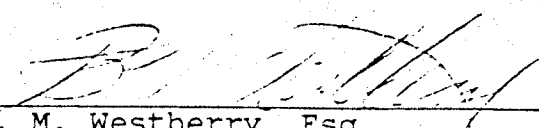
JE - 78

Question: May a district judge serve as director of a local bank?

Answer: Qualified yes. The district judge must be careful not to lend the prestige of his office to advance the interests of the bank. He must also disqualify in all cases which come before him in which the bank is involved.

A district judge poses the question whether he may be a director of a local bank. The committee believes this opinion is to be distinguished from Judicial Ethics Opinion JE - 67 in which we told a circuit judge he could not serve on the local Advisory Board of a local financial institution. A local bank will not often be in district court. But, whenever the bank does appear before the judge, he must disqualify himself.

The judge must also be careful not to lend the prestige of his office to advance the interests of the Bank. He must not be listed on the letterhead as Judge John Doe, but only as John Doe.


B. M. Westberry, Esq.
Chairman
Judicial Ethics Committee